

THE
CHOICE MEDLEY.



GREENFIELD.

A. Phelps.

From Sylvia Chandler

To Arthur L. Benson

CHILDREN'S BOOK
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THE
CHOICE MEDLEY.



GREENFIELD.

A. Phelps....1849.

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THE MEDDLY.

WELL, Grandfather, said Mary as the fire burned brightly on the hearth one evening, and the wind whistled sharply without, now for a story that you promised last evening.

"That is true," said the old gentleman, taking each of them by the hand "but what story shall I tell you. Shall it be about the Indians of this country, or something that took place in foreign lands. As you are fond of history, perhaps you would like to hear something about the kings of England." "Oh yes," said both the children, "that would suit us well; pray tell us something about England."

“ Well, then, my dear children, I want you to remember, that no one, however rich, and powerful and happy he may be, is exempted from misfortune. A king that is clothed with purple and fine linen, and rules an empire to-day, may be deprived of his power, and carried about as a slave in chains to-morrow. This is strikingly illustrated in the history of King Caractacus. He was one of the most renowned of the British Kings, and for a long time opposed the Romans, who invaded his country. But he was finally conquered, taken prisoner by them, and carried to Rome. Here he is, as you see him in the picture, standing in the presence of the Emperor Claudius, bound with chains.



CARACTACUS AT ROME.

Here in the palace, all was splendor. It was a new scene for the captive King. Casting his eyes around on the rich furniture, the gorgeous trappings, and the vessels of silver and gold, that surrounded him, he exclaimed, "Alas, alas, how is it possible, that a people possessed of so much magnificence at home, could envy me an humble cottage in Britian." Poor Caractacus! Yesterday a King—

to-day a slave, loaded with chains, and exhibited as a spectacle in the streets of Roam.

But notwithstanding his misfortunes, Caractacus remained firm and undaunted under his misfortunes, and the Emperor was so much pleased with his magnanimity, that he ordered his chains to be struck off. This took place a great many hundred years ago. It was in the year A. D. 44. Now my children, tell me what A. D. stands for." "It means in the year of our Lord 44—or forty-four years after the crucifixion of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST."





QUEEN BOADICIA.

This is Queen Boadicia, and her daughters. The Romans, with a large army, in the reign of the Emperor Nero, invaded her country. The people were much alarmed. Just before the battle commenced, seated with her daughters in a lofty chariot, she drove through the numerous squadrons of her army, and by her talk, raised the drooping spirits of her soldiers. But it was in vain. The Romans advanced to the charge, and her

army was defeated, with the loss of forty thousand men, who were left slain on the field.

Think what a dreadful spectacle ! Forty thousand men killed and lying dead on the field of battle. This was all wrong. These men who were killed, had never injured the Romans, and it was wicked in them to devastate their peaceful country and to kill them in this manner. Remember the commandment of God, "thou shalt not kill."





WHITE CHILDREN SOLD AS SLAVES.

Several hundred years ago a number of British children were taken away from their fathers and mothers in Great Britain, carried to Rome and exposed for sale as slaves in the public market at Rome. This was all wrong. No doubt it was the occasion of much distress, not only to the unfortunate children, but to their parents. But slavery is practiced at the present time in our own country, and by

people who are more enlightened than the Romans were at that day. A heavier weight of responsibility therefore rests upon those who are now engaged in the unjust traffic, and they will have more to answer for in the day of judgement.



KING HENRY DOING PENANCE.

I will now tell you about King Henry. Being offended with 'Thomas A. Becket, who from a low station was raised by the King to great power, he exclaimed upon

one occasion, "is there no one who will revenge his monarch's cause upon this audacious priest." These words induced four knights of his court to murder him. They fell upon him in the Cathedral, and clove his head with repeated blows, so that he fell down dead, staining the altar with his blood. A cry was raised against the King for this thing, and to satisfy the people, he went barefoot to Becket's tomb. He afterwards put a scourge into the hands of the monks, and presented his bare shoulders to the lash of the priests. The Pope, who pretends that he has power to forgive sins, then gave him absolution. But this was all very foolish and wicked. None but God, my children, has power to forgive sins.





THE MONEY BAG.

Oh! how I wish that I had that bag of money, said Joseph, as he saw his Uncle Christopher pouring a large quantity of gold coin into it. What would you do with it, said Uncle Christopher, if it was all yours? I would buy me a little horse, and some sugar plumbs, and a great many little things. And what would you do with it Mary, said her Uncle, if it was yours? I would buy some bread and meat for the poor sick woman that lives

up in the lane, and some clothes for her poor ragged children, that in this cold weather are shivering in the streets. Mary, said her Uncle, as he put his hand into the bag and gave her an Eagle, as you are the most deserving, I give this to you. Those who will not make a right use of money had better be without it.



THE MIS-STEP.

Richard was a very careless Boy, and paid but little attention to what his Mother told him. This neglect of parents,

and disobedience to their commands, I want my little readers to understand, is always indicative of a bad heart. Disobedient children generally come to some bad end—and, if they are not punished in this world, they will be in the world to come, unless they repent.

Richard had often been told by his mother that he must not play in the little room at the top of the stairs. But one day, as his cousins, James and Martha, came to see him, disregarding what had been told him, he went there, and while engaged in his favorite play of Blind Man's Buff, making a mis-stept, he fell against the door. It burst open, and he fell headlong to the bottom of the stairs; he was taken up with a broken arm, and otherwise much injured by the fall. He endured weeks of pain and suffering, and all this in consequence of not obeying the commands of his mother.



THE FRIGHTENED NURSE.

Some boys are so full of mischief, that they seem to take delight in troubling others. This was exemplified in the history of Jemmy Lawless. He had no taste for his Books, and when other boys, like good children, were at school, attending to their lessons, he was to be found, most always roaming the lots, robbing orchards, and Birds of their young.

One day, as Betty Brown was walking out with the little child of her mistress, he set his Dog Growler, upon her—and here is poor Betty, exceedingly frightened, running to escape from the Dog.

Remember that a disposition to give pain to others, is always indicative of a bad heart.



MARTHA AND HER BROTHERS.

It is a good thing to remember the poor and the unfortunate. 'The good Book says that he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the LORD.

Little Martha, on account of her good conduct, had received a silver Sixpence,

from her mother. Now, my little reader, what do you think she did with it? Many children would have ran to the confectioner's, and spent it for sugar plumbs, or for some little thing equally as useless. But it was not so with her. She had been taught by her mother to remember the poor, and here she is with her little brothers, at the house of the poor Blind man who was unable to work, to give him all she had, her Silver Sixpence.



UNFORTUNATE JACK.

Jack and Gill went up the hill,
 After a pail of Water ;
 Jack fell down and broke his crown,
 And Gill came tumbling after.



TURK AND VESSEL.

The Turks are not like the English, celebrated for their attention to maritime pursuits. They are usually slothful and ignorant, furious in their temper, when provoked : besides they are full of dissimulation, and so immoderately vindictive, that they will abandon avarice to gratify revenge. They believe in the false prophet Mahomet, and have no charity for a Jew or a Christian, but are benevolent and kind to those who profess the same religion as themselves.



THE LITTLE MUSICIANS.

Little Johnny Bute, play'd a tune on his
 flute,
 And old Sambo danced, heigh diddle
 diddle,
 And little Tommy Thumb, beat a hole
 in his drum,
 So pleased was he with the sport.

Be careful my little readers, never to
 engage in any but innocent amusements,
 and never let your minds be so taken up
 with them as to forget your studies at
 School, and the duties you owe your Pa-
 rents and Teachers.



SPRING TIME.

The winter is past and gone. The green grass springs out of the earth.—The buds come out upon the trees, and the birds sing among the branches, The crimson blossoms of the peach and the nectarine are seen. The hedges are bordered with tufts of primroses and yellow cowslips, and the blue violet lies hid beneath the shade. The Farmer is out with his cattle and his plow, and the children are sporting on the green earth. And here is little Mary, with her little basket, filled with the first blossoms of spring, upon her arm. How contented

and how happy she looks. But consider that the bright days of spring, like the happy days of childhood and youth, will soon be over. Therefore remember thy CREATOR in the days of thy youth, and love and serve him, so that when you die, you may enjoy an eternal spring of happiness and peace.



LAZY NED.

Lazy Boys are frequently getting into mischief, and are often the occasion of great grief and trouble to their parents.

So it was with lazy Ned. If his mother sent him on an errand, he would loiter by the way and sometimes forget it altogether. Being sent one day on an errand to his aunt, he, instead of going directly, as he should have done, went off to a Farmer's yard, and began plaguing and teasing the cattle. It was not long before he so provoked an angry bull, that he came at him with his horns, and had it not been for the farmer's dog, that flew at the beast, he might have been tossed into the air and perhaps killed by this enraged animal. As it was, Ned took to his heels, and was very glad to make his escape. There he goes, and see how frightened he looks.

When you are sent upon an errand by your parents, do not loiter upon the way, like lazy Ned, but go and do it directly. That is the way with all good children.



